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LAYER CAKE
Tax lost in layers of footpath

PAGE 3

FENCE SHIFTING
Avalahalli Lake needs fencing

PAGE 6

Community fridge in Shanti Nagar that served city's hungry now a dumping spot for all sorts of trash

THAT'S NOT COOL

Refrigerators set up at various locations to alleviate hunger

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The objective of having a community fridge is to ensure food for the needy and hungry in the respective locality. It is the responsibility of the residents to maintain the community fridge by storing food in the fridge.

Surely the community fridge is not meant to be a dumping place or a trash black spot. A community fridge in Shanti Nagar has been serving many hungry people in the area but it has now become a destination for dumping all sorts of garbage due to a lack of awareness among some residents.

Some residents and volunteers along with the help of elected representatives and social organisations opened community fridges at various locations in the city to alleviate hunger, in times of need. The community refrigerators and walls of kindness have been a great help to the needy in the city.

However, the community fridge known as The Public Fridge installed near a Jain temple in Shantinagar, has become a dumping place for all sorts of materials: "I was shocked to come across two mud pots, abandoned shoes and thermocol material dumped near The Public Fridge. We are finding it difficult to remove waste material dumped at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

A well-maintained Public Fridge at BTM Layout

Garbage dumped near The Public Fridge

"I was shocked to come across two mud pots, abandoned shoes and thermocol dumped near The Public Fridge

— Obalapathi P, supervisor (SWM), BBMP

Double-decker roll-out this year unlikely

Active in 90s, double-decker buses are a part of nostalgic Bengaluru

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru might not see double-decker buses on the roads by year-end as the state government is yet to provide permissions as required, officials said.

Previously, the state government had given assurances of launching double-decker buses by the end of 2023. However, the roll-out now seems unlikely, as the process of procuring double-decker buses under the GCC model is still not completed.

Back in September, the BMTC had floated a tender for procurement of 10 double-decker buses. Due to the issues with vertical clearance owing to FOBs and skywalks, it was decided these buses would run on Outer Ring Road routes.

The double-decker buses will need a vertical clearance of 4.4 m to 4.7 m. The state cabinet had approved the procurement of 10 such buses at a cost of Rs 24 crore.

The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and National Clean Air Programme have agreed to provide Rs 10 crore each and BMTC would cover the rest.

"The procurement process of double-decker buses is still in progress. We are yet to get government approval," said a senior BMTC official.

A tender called for five double-decker buses in January 2023 was scrapped; another one for 10 double-decker buses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Special earthen lamps

Tamaala presents lamps and lights made from earthen elements by 60+ rural and tribal artisans from Jodhpur, Bhuj, Villupuram, Ramanagara, Belgaum, Udupi, and cooperatives in Bengaluru rural. You can also get your hands on Pichwai paintings from Rajasthan, Gond paintings of tribals from Dindori forests in MP, and more.
Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar
When: until November 13; 11 am–8 pm (Tuesdays closed)

02 Play for babies

Here's an exclusive play for toddlers being presented at Ranga Shankara. Yes, you read it right. Play for toddlers. This unique play is for kids aged 2–3 years. Ee Gida, Aa Mara is a play directed by Sananda Mukhopadhyaya, who aims to create experiences for kids whose speech has not yet arrived.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: November 12; 11 am and 3:30 pm

03 Movie time

Experience a unique outdoor movie night that promises an unforgettable experience for movie enthusiasts of all ages. Attendees can enjoy their favourite movies in an amazing atmosphere, surrounded by the beauty of nature.
Where: Grand Mercure Bengaluru, Gopalan Mall, opposite RMZ Infinity Techpark, Swamy Vivekananda Road
When: November 18; 7 pm and 8 pm

A gentle reminder: Shine without harm

Only 263 traders get permission to sell crackers in city; police issue guidelines for licencees to open temporary retail firecracker shops during Deepawali

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Sources indicate that a total of 964 online applications were received for selling crackers

With Deepawali approaching, the stretch in Hosur has transformed into a bustling thoroughfare. Due to stringent measures imposed on firecracker vendors, numerous Bengalureans are opting to visit the neighbouring town of Hosur, where such restrictions do not apply. This time around, only 263 traders have been granted permission to sell crackers, utilising 62 grounds scattered across the city. Sources indicate that a total of 964 online applications were received for selling crackers. Initially, expectations were set for 320 shops, but ultimately, only 263 were authorised.

The border regions of Hosur are brimming with cracker shops, strategically targeting customers from Bengaluru. Sundar K, a resident of Bannerghatta Road, expressed, "For us, Deepawali is incomplete without crackers. This year, the shops are hard to find, so I visited Hosur to purchase crackers."

Responding to this trend, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda stated on Friday, "We have exclusively permitted the sale and bursting of green crackers this time. I urge Bengalureans to procure crackers only from authorised shops. Many individuals tend to cross into Tamil Nadu to buy crackers. Consequently, Bengaluru Rural police stations are setting up barricades to thwart the illegal entry of crackers from the neighbouring state. Additionally, the city police in the south-east and south divisions have established checkpoints at our jurisdictional borders to scrutinise bulk quantities of crackers, and subsequent legal action will be taken."

Bengaluru City Police have issued guidelines for licencees to open temporary retail firecracker shops during Deepawali 2023.

B Dayanand explained, "All licensees must meet the conditions: Only green crackers, as directed by the Supreme Court, can be sold. Green firecrackers and packets must have the green firecracker symbol and a QR code. Stores must be well ventilated from both sides.

Stall materials must not be flammable, and fire prevention devices should be used for construction. Every store must have front and rear access. The store size must be limited to 10 x 10 feet. There must be a 3-metre distance between stores, and a store must be 50 metre away from any protected work or place. A copy of the licence must be displayed prominently, and the licensee must be present at all times. Only Indian-manufactured crackers can be sold. Selling firecrackers to children under 18 is prohibited."

The police department has formed a joint task force to inspect firecracker shops and take action against violations. Additionally, guidelines specify that fire prevention equipment must be in each store, including a water fire extinguisher, two buckets of water, and at least 400 litre of water in two drums. "No one can sleep in the shops at night, and electrical wiring and fittings must be proper," he added.

> **"I urge Bengalureans to procure crackers only from authorised shops. Only green crackers can be sold**
> – B Dayananda, city police

Earlier, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board issued a circular restricting the bursting of firecrackers from 8 pm to 10 pm. The officials have been asked to inspect warehouses, confiscating prohibited firecrackers. "Firecrackers may only be stocked and sold in authorised makeshift shops in open areas designated by officials," said an official.

The Public Fridge in Shantinagar needs saving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Public Fridge. I want the donors to keep the useful material in the cupboard and food items in the fridge," said BBMP supervisor (solid waste management) Obalapathi P.

Expressing concern over dumping unwanted material around The Public Fridge, Shobha Ranader, a volunteer, emphasised the need to raise awareness among the public on how to use The Public Fridge. "I want the residents to keep food inside the fridge, and the clothes and other useful things in the cupboard. It will become difficult for pourakarmikas to remove unwanted things from the spot where The Public Fridge and cupboard are placed," said Shobha Ranader.

Meanwhile, The Indian Ploggers Army founder Plog Raja told BM that the community fridge at BTM Layout is clean and neat. "The Public Fridge at BTM Layout is being maintained properly. It is so clean and well maintained. One has to remember that if you would not eat it, and you would not use it, please do not drop it. Let us use this and not misuse," he said.

Veeresh, a BBMP marshal, said some people have been dumping waste near The Public Fridge. "We have been keeping a vigil on The Public Fridge to create awareness among those who dump garbage," said Veeresh.

The Rotary Club of Basaveshwara Nagar in association with Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar started the Wall of Kindness in 2019 to encourage people to donate 'used and excess items' for the benefit of needy people. "It has been a great help for the needy. It is well maintained by the members of Rotary Club," said Suresh Kumar.

Procurement of 10 double-deckers approved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was floated in September. In the earlier tender, Switch Mobility emerged as the lone bidder, however, reportedly the high price quoted by the bidder led to the scrapping of the tender.

In its larger shift to green mobility, BMTC has plans to bring back double-deckers in electric format. The buses will have a maximum range of 150 km under a single charge and could be fully charged within 2-2.5 hours.

Vibrantly active in the late 90s, double-decker buses traversing Shivajinagar, Jayanagar, MG Road, and City Market form a part of the nostalgic Bengaluru.

The last double-decker was phased out by BMTC in 2014. Already electric double-decker buses are running in Mumbai, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

This footpath has many layers. All pointless?

BBMP pouring money into developing footpath that sees minimal pedestrian traffic has riled citizens up

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recent revelation of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) investing a substantial amount of public funds in the development of a footpath that sees minimal pedestrian traffic has raised eyebrows. This footpath, managed by the civic body, lacks any adjacent buildings or shops, rendering it underutilised. Instead, it features a bus shelter and a skywalk designed to aid commuters in crossing Ramana Maharshi Road.

At a time when numerous other footpaths require the attention of responsible authorities, the BBMP's Road Infrastructure Department appears to be placing particular emphasis on the development of this particular footpath. This project involves widening the footpath to the compound wall, effectively covering the adjacent roadside drain with concrete slabs. Notably, the inclusion of pavers on these concrete slabs has raised concerns as it could complicate future maintenance efforts. Cleaning the drain would necessitate the removal of both the concrete slabs and pavers.

"It is a waste of taxpayers' money. There is no need for the BBMP authorities to put pavers on the concrete slabs which are sufficient to enable pedestrians to walk on the drain-cum-footpath," said Selwyn Mascarenhas, a motorist.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for wasting money to widen the footpath by including the drain that is covered with concrete slabs, Murali N, a pedestrian, has said that the footpath does not need pavers. "There was no need for the BBMP authorities to develop this footpath that was in a good condition. There is no quality in the ongoing development work. I want the BBMP engineer to inspect the footpath development work to ensure quality," said Murali.

Subramani N, a resident of Guttahalli who was waiting to board a BMTC bus, said the footpath was in good condition. "I am happy with the BBMP authorities for constructing the much-needed skywalk for the benefit of people to reach the other side of the busy road without any hassles. However, I am not happy with the BBMP spending money to develop the footpath that is used by only a few people," said Subramani.

Meanwhile, BBMP Road Infrastructure Executive Engineer Priyadarshini has said the BBMP is developing the footpath on Ramana Maharshi Road on par with the footpath on Jayamahal Road. "There is a provision to clean the drain without breaking or removing concrete slabs and pavers. We are developing the existing footpath. We did not increase the width of the footpath," said Priyadarshini.

What's cooking: Just contraband

In a significant operation, the city police have successfully busted a 'drug factory' operating within Bengaluru. Commissioner B Dayanand said, "The CCB has successfully busted a drug factory in the city and seized drugs worth Rs 10 crore in the international market. We have arrested a person, and he has been taken into police custody for seven days. The accused was active in Ramamurthy Nagar and Avalahalli areas. He had come to Bengaluru on a business visa, which expired in 2022, and was staying illegally. He had rented a house in Avalahalli, where he allegedly set up this drug factory and a lab. He had procured all the raw materials required to produce Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) here and supply. We expect that he is one of the main peddlers in the city, and he could be distributing to other peddlers."

Sources disclosed that a Nigerian national was utilising a pressure cooker for drug manufacturing distributed in India and abroad. The CCB conducted a swift operation on November 5, arresting the individual involved in drug manufacturing and distribution. Seized items include 5 kg of MDMA (worth Rs 10 crores), 12 kg and 450 grams of MSM, 5 kg of Sodium Hydroxide Crystals, 5 litres of Hydrochloric acid, and more. The accused faces charges under the NDPS Act and is in judicial custody until November 20. **BMB**

Travel connectivity gets a boost

State government announces plans to extend Metro trains till Bidadi; realtors say widening of B'luru-Mysuru Road has led to increase in investment in plots

According to realtors, many people want to buy property around Mysuru Road so that they can easily travel

With Mysuru Road already turning out to be a prime property destination, the latest announcement by the state government will give it a further boost. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru in charge portfolio, announced on Friday that there are plans to extend the Metro trains till Bidadi. A detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared for the same. Currently, the Metro trains are operated until Challaghatta, just ahead of Kengeri. As the Bidadi route is not planned in the proposed phase three, it is likely that it may be taken up in the subsequent phases.

Realtors have welcomed the move. "It is a great move by the state government to extend Metro trains to Bidadi. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is already operating regular buses to Bidadi, as Bidadi is no longer a distant town outside Bengaluru but has become like the outskirts of Bengaluru. Many are buying plots in and around Bidadi so that they can be part of Greater Bengaluru," said Gangadhar Gowda, a realtor.

The 10-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru highway has brought Bidadi closer to Bengaluru in terms of travel time. The latest announcement will definitely be a big boost. Moreover, the way Metro helped Gurugram grow like a business hub, the Metro connectivity will similarly make Bidadi grow into another hub, he added.

The government is currently conducting surveys on the extension. Shivakumar explained, "Earlier, there was a proposal to form the Bidadi Planning Authority. However, now we have decided that we will scrap the authority and then merge it with the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority. Currently, more than a lakh people work in the Bidadi industrial area."

Other real estate developers said that ever since the government took up road widening, many have been investing in plots in and around Mysuru Road. Interestingly, plots are available to suit different budget segments.

TD Lohith, a real estate developer, said, "The Bengaluru-Mysuru road used to be a two-lane road. However, following an increase in traffic, it was decided to widen to four lanes. The four-lane Mysuru Road not only decreased travel time but also increased job opportunities. Many people wanted to buy property around Mysuru Road so that they could easily travel to their native places during the weekends."

Property investment can give good returns

Many people want to buy plots to build homes or rental properties. A recent report suggests that it could also be profitable. According to the Anarock report, residential rental yield—the annual return on investment from capital invested in a property—has never been spectacular in India. The national average of 3% for the last few years before the pandemic was more or less typical. However, with rental demand picking up after covid-19 in 2022, there has been a significant change—one of the main reasons why investors are back in the housing market.

"Among the top seven cities in India, Bengaluru has the highest rental yield of 4.35% as of the end of September 2023, followed by Mumbai with 4.05," said the report.

The report states that housing rents continue to rise across the top 7 cities, led by leading IT/ITeS hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. The latest ANAROCK Research data reveals that among the top 7 cities, residential rentals in Bengaluru's prominent areas soared by over 30% in the first nine months of 2023 (9M 2023).

Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group, said, "After an almost terminal downturn during the first and second covid-19 waves, residential rents are one of the most remarkable comeback stories of the post-pandemic housing sector. The first nine months of 2023 saw housing rents soar by over 30% in the top seven cities. Bengaluru, already in the limelight for its astronomic rental values post-covid-19, continues to stand out among the top seven cities."

–Prakash VL

> **"The four-lane Mysuru Road not only decreased travel time but also increased job opportunities**
>
> –TD Lohith, a real estate developer

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NRIs to bet big on Bengaluru

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Percentage of NRIs looking to buy properties in each city

- Bengaluru: 29%
- Mumbai: 24%
- Hyderabad: 18%
- Chennai: 14%
- Pune : 11%
- Delhi NCR : 4%

The contribution of non-resident Indians (NRIs) to the Indian real estate sector has witnessed notable and steady growth over the past few years. According to a survey, Bengaluru has emerged as a top pick for real estate investment for NRI buyers due to its cosmopolitan lifestyle, world-class educational institutions and thriving startup ecosystem. One of the major factors is that the rental yield in the city has gone up, making it a good investment destination.

According to data from NoBroker, in the past five years, the number of NRIs buying properties in Bengaluru has gone from 4% to 29%. The year 2019 observed 4% of NRIs buying properties in the city. While in 2020, it increased to 8% and further increased to 22% in 2021. The year 2022 saw a good jump to 31%, and in 2023 until now, the statistics show 29%.

Vishal Vincent, Managing Director, Aratt Developers, said, "Bengaluru has been known to be the hub for attracting young professionals and entrepreneurs from around the world, which has led to its thriving IT culture, ushering in a constant influx in the population of the city. This expansion, in turn, has led to several opportunities within the real estate market as well. One of the key driving factors for this is the growth in infrastructure and development spearheaded by projects like the extension of the Namma Metro rail network and the expansion of ORR and peripheral ring roads."

Saurabh Garg, co-founder and chief business officer of NoBroker.com, stated that in Bengaluru, the preference among most NRI buyers leans towards investing in gated communities. This is primarily due to the appeal of safety, convenience, an array of amenities, and the sense of community living they offer. Additionally, gated societies are easier to manage remotely, often utilising remote property management services, making them an attractive choice for NRI investors. Moreover, this is considered a better investment option as it tends to yield higher rental returns.

According to the NRI real estate report 2023 from NoBroker, the contribution of NRI to the Indian real estate sector has witnessed steady growth. In the fiscal year 2019–2020, NRIs were estimated to account for approximately 10% of the total investments in the Indian real estate market. However, in the ensuing years, this figure has seen an upward trajectory, and currently, NRIs contribute around 15% to the Indian real estate sector.

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Desolation of smog

Why do we begin the winter by polluting the air further in the subcontinent? Should we not give it a break, at the least? Each passing year air pollution reveals a grimmer picture.

As the Himalayan ranges block the air columns and engulf the north Indian plains in a gas chamber, human activity is seemingly of the kind that exacerbates the situation, not one that mitigates. The paradox has stubble burnings in farmlands, crackers that light up the festivity, and the burgeoning vehicle sales of the festive season.

Perhaps we need to slow down a bit on the gargantuan scale of consumption in the world's most populous nation and spare a thought. Consumption is fuelling urban pollution in India. This has to be reined in, in a radical transformation which requires not only political will but the active participation of each and every living soul in this geography, especially the ultra rich and affluent. The prospect is bleak already.

A hundred times the prescribed limit of toxic particulate matter in the air - that's what the stats threw up on the air quality in the national capital the other day. What are we smoking, eh?

The crackers of the festivity notwithstanding, even the so-called green ones, the relentless dust-raising construction work on every turn as if with some sort of vengeance to make up for the lost years of covid, alongside fleets of newly acquired SUVs crowding up the roads - most of them with just one passenger — all this is driving us up to a wall of doom.

Come winter and we all hop eagerly from the online echo chamber to another ultra toxic one outside.

Before governments realise that beyond the political mudslinging over this record seasonal spike in pollution - especially in the national capital - there are a few radical changes the citizenry could attempt so as to minimise the amount of the particulate matter that overwhelm our respiratory tracts.

Almost two billion covid-battered souls are breathing in and out the foul air interspersed with the toxic particulate matter suspended in the deathly motionless air columns that loom over our cities as winter sets in - we would not want to push the limit further, do we?

Perhaps all of us could depend on public transport during winter months: forget about the odd even mode private vehicle option suggested. Instead a total shutdown of private vehicles after all.

This way one could push the limits of the public transit systems and glean whether they are indeed working for the citizen or not - when pressure builds they shall have to toe the line and serve the citizen.

As oftentimes demonstrated by these ghost transport corporations, with no affluent citizen ready to forego their car for a day and hop in a BMTC bus, they need a fillip to stay afloat and be champions of sustainability on the frontline in cities. The first move shall come from the citizen, and not the governments. If it had to come from the administration, it would have come forth by now.

Surely if not today, at a certain point in time, no doubt, in the very near future, we would be forced to do the aforementioned: ditch private vehicles for good, for survival. So why not now?

And succeed, if we did in doing so, which is highly unlikely but not impossible, then we should look at urban waste that is choking the stormwater drains, empty plots, water bodies and so forth in the city which is not a seasonal problem like the foul air is thought to be, which in turn is absolutely not the case. We have immensely alarming emission levels in our urban scapes thanks to the gas guzzling neoliberal engine.

Longevity of a city is put on a stranglehold when pollution of all sorts from all sides goes unchecked; someday it shall affect our daily lives however much insulated we are in our cosy one-passenger-only cars, high-rise apartments, plush villas or whichever isolated box we are holed up in and foolish enough to think that this shall pass.

For instance, the pourakarmikas in the city are about to start another agitation demanding an increase in wages and permanency of their jobs. Now, this sort of insensitivity towards civic workers, that overlooks their role in a city's health, is telling of the forever-apathy of the affluent and administrations towards issues such as pollution, need for sustainable urban infra, access to commons, housing for poor, and so forth. Fact is, the challenges we face today cannot be tackled in the exclusivity of the rich and elite.

We have to reinforce the resolve from the foundations of society and perhaps give up consumption, that is luxury, all together for a while, so that there's enough room for the planet to heal and accommodate future generations.

Holes in lake fencing: Mind the gaps indeed

Citizens, experts say other than security and law and order problems, fauna at lakes also face threat due to broken fences

Stretches of the fence at Avalahalli Lake have gaping holes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Lake activists have warned that the lack of adequate fencing at Avalahalli may drive out the wildlife which gathers in the vicinity.

Raghvendra Pachhapur, a lake activist, told Bangalore Mirror that while the lake has basic fencing in place, there are many areas that have been left unfenced and sections that have been broken open by miscreants. "There is a guard at the lake to ensure security, but the purpose is defeated when the basic fencing itself has holes, allowing unregulated entry," Pachhapur said, stressing that the fencing acts as a basic line of defence and must be prioritised by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). He noted that illegal activities such as hunting will likely see a rise if the fencing is not immediately fixed.

On the other hand, the birds which gather in the lake may begin to feel threatened by entry of stray animals such as dogs and cattle. "The stray dogs may not end up killing the birds but the birds will feel threatened enough to not visit the lake again. If the problem is not fixed soon, all the birds will be driven out of the lake. The number of birds in the city has already witnessed a significant fall," he explained.

Recently, some citizens had also pointed out the design flaw in the inner fencing at the Doddakallasandra lake, allowing the entry of stray dogs into the premises. In this scenario, the fence did not begin from ground up but from a few feet above. Residents and lake activists had then also pointed to the entry of dogs into the lake, which had begun to see various birds, including the oriental darter, painted storks, and black-headed ibis, which have been deemed Near Threatened (NT) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

> **There is a guard at the lake to ensure security, but the purpose is defeated when the fence has holes**
>
> –Raghvendra Pachhapur, lake activist

Bangalore Mirror in May had also written regarding members and residents of Green Circle living near the lake finding numerous illegal activities taking place in the premises of the lake during night time. Some had alleged that during their night visits, they had found people drinking, and individuals using the pedestrian pathway to learn how to ride. They had also found children fishing and fishermen excessively fishing during day time.

Executive Engineer at the lakes department of BBMP, Indrani, told Bangalore Mirror that they have prepared estimates for putting up fencing on the damaged portions as well as the water body. She noted that estimates have been made for other developmental works too. "The work will begin in a month or two," she said.

PSI recruitment: HC dismisses petition challenging re-exam

The Karnataka High Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the re-exam for the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors.

More than a hundred candidates had challenged the state government's decision to conduct a re-exam, which was announced after the earlier test held on October 3, 2021 was cancelled following a large-scale scam involving senior police officers in the examination process.

A division bench of Justice PS Dinesh Kumar and Justice Shivashankare Gowda read out the operative portion of their judgment, the copy of which is awaited.

The HC also said the government was free to conduct the examination with the help of private organisations.

The examination held in 2021 was written by 54,289 candidates.

The recruitment exam to fill the posts of 545 PSIs ran into controversy after it was revealed that the OMR (optical mark recognition) answer sheets were tampered with to benefit some candidates.

Following the scam and arrest of many police officers and candidates, 52 candidates involved in the scandal were debarred.

The re-examination announced by the government was challenged by successful candidates who were not accused in the scam.

The police registered two FIRs and arrested over 30 people in the case, including several candidates and police officers. The highest ranking officer accused in the scam is the then ADGP Amrit Paul (IPS).

—PTI

₹1,500-cr loan to tide over dark times

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

To address the power crisis, the Karnataka government plans to buy power from neighbouring states, but it's an expensive affair, estimated at a whopping Rs 1,500 crore. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated on Monday, "We need 600 MW/hr and 14 million units per day for a continuous seven hours to power IP sets across the state. This requires an additional Rs 1,500 crore to be met by savings in grants and the reallocation of funds."

Compared to 2022, average electricity demand in 2023 increased by 43%. The peak demand of 15,978 MW was recorded in October. This year, electricity consumption increased by 45% from last year. In the agricultural sector, it went up from 55% to 119%, and in other sectors, it increased from 9% to 14%. Production at Raichur and Bellary thermal power plants has increased, he added.

Electricity is being procured from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. Under Section 11, orders are issued not to supply electricity to other states, bringing power distribution back to normal.

Earlier, Energy Minister KJ George said, "Power demand in the state has shot up this year compared to last

Electricity demand in state has risen by 43% as compared to 2022

year. In the last few years, power consumption has decreased due to the covid-19 pandemic. However, the demand has been unprecedented this year. Power consumption in August surpassed the summer months. Our state has a total installed capacity of 32,009 MW (26,000 MW units offered to state utility companies), and the remaining 6,000 MW capacity is under private use. Of the installed capacity, 50% is available, with an estimated daily storage availability of 11,000–12,000 MW. However, the state's solar power generation peaks at 15,000–16,000 MW during peak solar availability."

He added that the quality of coal allocated by the Central Government is not good. Due to a lack of rain, power generation has been adversely affected. Power generation doubled in our first term of government. In 2013–14, electricity generation was 14,048 MW, increasing to 27,780 MW by 2017–18.

This year's monsoon has been poor, leading to increased power consumption, translating to a 45% increase. The state has witnessed a production capacity drop of 300 MU due to a lack of power generation from thermal power plants, solar power, and wind energy. Daily demand is 270–280 MU, but we generate 230–240 MU, facing a shortage of 30–40 MU per day. Compared to June 2022, this year, the state witnessed energy consumption beyond 200 MU per month.

On increasing generation from the NTPC Kudgi Super Power Plant, the Energy Minister said, "At present, the installed capacity of the NTPC Kudgi Thermal Power Plant under the Centre is 2,400 MW (3X800 MW), and the state share is about 55%. Efforts are being made to get back 150 MW from NDMC soon."

Jumbo fatalities: Glimmer of hope, perhaps?

Elephant mortality cases see reduction over last three years; from 62 jumbo deaths in 2021, this year in the same period only 49 fatalities recorded

Garima Prasher
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According to data available with the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), elephant mortality cases in the state have reduced over the last three years. While the department recorded 69 jumbo deaths (both natural and unnatural causes) between January and October 2021, this number went down to 61 in 2022. This year, only 49 deaths have been recorded in the given period.

The number of elephants being electrocuted had also reduced marginally. As many as 11 jumbos were electrocuted between January and October 2021, and eight died due to electrocution in a given period in 2022. Between January and October this year, seven elephants were electrocuted.

"Although there is a reduction in elephant death cases by nearly 20%, this is not a significant drop. Natural deaths in elephants can be unpredictable, and they can easily surpass last year's number over the next two months. The numbers show that the situation is stable, and at least there is no surge in death cases," said Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (Wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department.

Electrocution concern

KFD officials say electrocution cases are still a matter of concern. As per the official data, out of 204 elephant deaths reported since January 2021, 37 elephants died of unnatural causes, and 26 of them were due to electrocution. "We are trying to create awareness among villagers and farmers to not put up illegal fences. The number of unnatural deaths due to electrocution and gunshots is our concern, and we are aiming to reduce these cases to zero. Although the number of deaths due to gunshots has reduced, electrocutions are still happening, and that is not a healthy sign. However, after the government has increased the ex-gratia amount in human deaths and crop damage cases, we are expecting electrocution cases to reduce soon," added Pushkar.

In December 2022, the Karnataka government increased the ex-gratia amount in human deaths and crop damage cases.

In some areas electric fences are raised to keep roving tuskers out of fields

> **"The number of unnatural deaths due to electrocution and gunshots is our concern, and we are aiming to reduce these cases to zero** –Kumar Pushkar, KFD

While a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh was given earlier in the case of human death, it was doubled to Rs 15 lakh. Similarly, the ex-gratia amount for crop damage was doubled too. Where earlier a compensation of Rs 1,320 was given in the event of the loss of one quintal of paddy, this amount was increased to Rs 2,640.

"Even a single elephant's death due to electrocution is a matter of concern. The department must remove all illegal fences on priority and work in coordination with ESCOMS. While some work is happening in this direction, the exercise should be more rigorous and implemented strictly. Checks for illegal fences should happen regularly, on the lines of anti-snaring operations," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

The department must go looking for such fences rather than waiting for complaints. Patrolling should happen in association with ESCOMs so cases can be booked on the spot. Checks in high-conflict areas such as Kodagu, Hassan, Sakleshpura, Chamarajnagar, and Bannerghatta should be increased, he added.

Activists take storm water drain issue to PM

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The pathetic condition of storm water drains can be seen at several locations in the city. Unfortunately, poor maintenance of storm water drains is leading to flooding of low-lying areas, thus making life miserable for residents of such areas vulnerable to flooding during the monsoon.

Now, the BBMP is expecting Rs 500 crore from the Central Government for the development and maintenance of storm water drains in the city. The civic body has submitted a proposal to the Finance Commission and the National Disaster Response Force to give Rs 250 crore each to enable them to find a permanent solution to flooding in the city.

Meanwhile, Mahithi Hakku Adhyayana Kendra Trustee BH Veeresh and Managing Trustee S Amaresh wrote a detailed letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting to order a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the misappropriation of funds released by the Central Government to the State Government for undertaking preventive measures within BBMP limits.

"I wanted the Prime Minister to order a CBI probe into the misappropriation of funds allocated for mitigating flooding woes in the city. Though the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India highlighted irregularities in utilising the Central Government funds, the authorities did nothing to follow the CAGI suggestions and recommendations. I demanded a thorough inquiry into the misappropriation of funds meant for improvement and strengthening of storm water drains," said Veeresh BH, Trustee of Mahithi Hakku Adhyayan Kendra. The storm water drains are meant to carry rainwater to the nearest water body, but these drains are carrying sewage. The authorities have failed to ensure no sewage flow into the storm water drains, he added. CAG, in its 136-page report, highlighted how the absence of a complete set of records hampered the audit analysis. The CAG report has stated that the BBMP had taken up 175 desilting works at a total cost of Rs 117.29 crore during 2013–17 for selective chainage and not for the entire stretch of the drains, and only the files pertaining to 14 works costing Rs 17.56 crore were furnished by the BBMP to audit for verification.

The CAG report has stated that a robust policy governing storm water drain management did not exist, and the state government and the BBMP failed to consider urban surface runoff (average annual rainfall being 969 mm during 2013–19) as a water resource despite the growing scarcity of water in the state/city.

"The BBMP must implement the suggestions and recommendations of the CAG report. I wrote a letter to the Urban Development Department complaining about the non-implementation of suggestions made by the CAG report," said Mahithi Hakku Adhyayana Kendra, Managing Trustee S Amaresh.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

FRESH START

After a night of thunderstorms and rain, morning filled with magic in Vignan Nagar

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Mind the danger here: Risky opening below

Citizens point out huge hole in underpass near Maharanis College; they say increasing frequency of rainfall aggravates this issue

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru's underpasses are very notorious during rain. There is severe waterlogging, and there was an instance where a girl even lost her life. However, no lessons seem to be learned. One of the most dangerous scenarios persists at the underpass near Maharanis College. There is a huge hole where rainy days can sweep away bikers or pedestrians.

Shivprasad S, BM reader, said, "During rainy days, the roads transform into waterlogged nightmares. Despite the city's rapid urbanisation, the underpasses remain particularly notorious during the season. These critical traffic arteries become breeding grounds for chaos and danger, with severe waterlogging and inadequate drainage leading to perilous conditions for commuters. One glaring example of this issue is the underpass near Maharanis College, where a colossal hole poses a significant threat to bikers and pedestrians alike."

A colossal hole poses a significant threat to pedestrians near Maharanis College

The potential for accidents and tragic incidents looms large, stressing the urgent need for infrastructure improvements and preventive measures. It's disheartening that the lessons from past mishaps, including a tragic incident where a young girl lost her life in a waterlogged underpass, seem to go unheeded, he added.

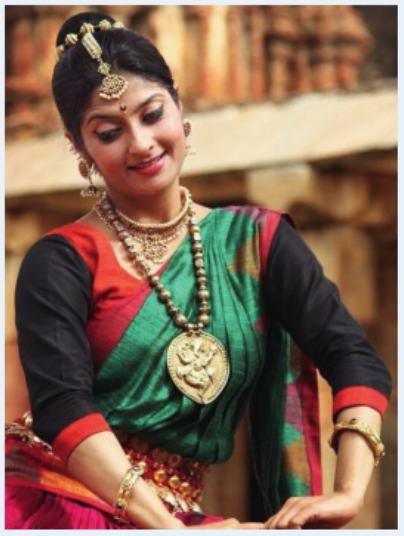
> **During rainy days, the roads transform into waterlogged nightmares**
>
> –Shivprasad S, a BM reader

Many said that as the rain continues to pour in Bengaluru, the underpasses transform into water pools, disrupting traffic and posing a serious risk to two-wheeler drivers. The increasing frequency of rainfall aggravates the problem, highlighting the pressing need for a comprehensive strategy to address the city's drainage and waterlogging challenges.

Swetha Kumari, a student at Maharanis College, said, "BBMP should prioritise the enhancement of drainage systems and infrastructure to mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall on traffic and public safety. As the city grapples with these recurring issues, students are scared. I have even seen traffic police advise caution to vehicle users, especially two-wheeler drivers navigating through the dangerous underpass."

Furthermore, a lecturer working at the nearby SJP college said, "Two-wheeler drivers need to be careful here. BBMP must take swift and effective action to ensure that underpasses are equipped to handle the monsoon deluge, making the roads safer for everyone."

DID YOU KNOW?



Nirupama Rajendra is one of the most revered classical dancers from Bengaluru. She is known to perform dance forms like Bharathnatyam and Kathak. She started her training when she was just five years old. She has performed for various events. She also went on to establish the dance company Abhinava in 1994. The company is known to have choreographed different recitals. She is the recipient of several awards, such as the Karnataka Kalashree Award and more. She went to Mount Carmel College and was trained under Guru Maya Rao for classical dance forms.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

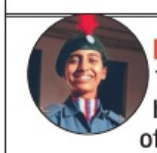
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are some interesting cultural or recreational activities in the city?

Sanvi Joshi, BM Reader
Bengaluru has always stood out differently from other cities in India. When other cities are building different sports cultures. We Bengalurians are busy creating a huge fan base and a new sports culture for football.

Adithya, BM Reader
The Church Street-MG Road-Brigade Road area for me is a goldmine of the most pretty cafes, bookstores, and hangout spots—throw a stone and it'll land in a good place. It helps me to make economical recommendations.

Dhanush AS, BM Reader
When in Bengaluru, one can definitely try go-karting, amusement parks, aquatic centres, driving to Nandi Hills, and trekking at Skandagiri.



Mahee Prabhu, BM Reader
This year, Bengaluru has the honour and privilege of hosting one of the most prestigious camps in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) after eight long years. It's called the All India Vayu Sainik Camp 2023 and is being held at the Air Force Station, Jalahalli.

Srinidhi HS, BM Reader
Bengaluru is also famous for its rich cultural heritage, with numerous temples, museums, and art galleries showcasing the city's history and traditions. Additionally, the city is a food lover's paradise, with a variety of cuisines and restaurants catering to all tastes.

Indushree, BM Reader
Bengaluru's food culture is a fascinating mix of long-established South Indian spices and intercontinental influences. One of the most unique dishes is the bisi bele bath, which gets its taste from a special spice blend.

SPEAK TO US

What are the annual events or festivals in Bengaluru that you look forward to the most? If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

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FINAL GOODBYE

End-of-life conversations can be hard, but your loved ones will thank you

Death – along with taxes – is one of life's few certainties. Despite this inevitability, most people dread thinking and talking about when, how or under what conditions they might die.

They don't want to broach the topic with family, either, for fear of upsetting them. Ironically, though, talking about death "early and often" can be the greatest gift to bestow on loved ones.

As a sociologist who has studied end-of-life issues for more than two decades, I've learned that people know they should talk about death honestly and openly, but surprisingly few do. In fact, one 2021 study showed that while 90% of adults say that talking to their loved ones about their end-of-life wishes is important, only 27% have actually had these conversations.

It's frightening to think about our own suffering, or our loved ones' distress. But everyone should talk about and prepare for death precisely because we want to minimize our own suffering at the end of life, and soften the anguish of loved ones left behind.

No time to plan

These conversations are more urgent now than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how Americans die.

For the past several decades, most adults have died from chronic illnesses like heart disease, cancer and lung disease. The time between diagnosis and death for people with these conditions can be months or even years. That gives patients and their families ample time to share their feelings, resolve unfinished business, and make practical preparations for death – including estate planning, advance care planning and even planning a celebration of life that bears the dying patient's creative imprint.

But when the pandemic struck in 2020, COVD deaths began to occur quickly and unexpectedly, with many patients dying just days after they felt their first symptoms. Their families were robbed of final moments together and often had no documents in place to guide the patient's health care or the distribution of their possessions. This suddenness, isolation and lack of preparedness all are hallmarks of a "bad death" for both the patient and their family.

What to cover

Advance care planning, which typically involves a living will and a health care proxy, allows people to articulate which medical treatments they want or don't want at the end of life.

A living will formally articulates preferences for care, such as whether to use comfort measures like hospice and palliative care, or more invasive measures like feeding tubes and ventilators. Documenting these preferences when the patient is still able to make those decisions helps to ensure they die on their own terms – a cornerstone of the "good death."

Appointing a health care proxy when still relatively young and healthy gives people an opportunity to decide who will be tasked with their end-of-life decision-making. It also clarifies loved ones' responsibilities and can fend off arguments that could arise around the deathbed. Having these discussions early also prevents panicked choices when someone's health takes a dramatic turn for the worse.

End-of-life discussions also help you to construct your own legacy. In "Death and Identity," a classic book in death studies, sociologist Robert Fulton observed that "preserving rather than losing ... personal identity" is a critical aspect of the dying process. Being treated like a "whole person" is a core component of a good death, and honest discussions are a key to maintaining your unique identity, even at the end of life.

Conversations also help us share how we'd like to be celebrated after we're gone. This might be as simple as dictating the music, food, and photo or video displays for a memorial service; where to spread ashes; or charities for mourners to support. Some people take more ambitious steps at leaving behind a legacy, such as penning an autobiography or leaving behind videos for relatives. Creating a "post-self" that lingers years after the body has died can be a cherished gift to families.

Getting started

Broaching these conversations can be awkward or unnerving, but it doesn't have to be. Death is a natural and inevitable part of life and should be approached as such. I have argued that the end of life is a stage, just as childhood, adolescence and old age are.

Each stage teaches lessons for the others that lie ahead.

Children learn skills in school that they'll need to enter the workforce. Teens learn how to navigate romantic relationships as preparation for the future. Adults of all ages can learn about hospice and end-of-life medical care, make preparations for passing on their inheritance and discuss how they'd like to be honored in death. These steps can help attain an end of life marked by peace and self-directedness, rather than strife and the loss of autonomy.

Ample resources are available to guide these conversations. Organizations like The Conversation Project – not related to The Conversation – have created guides for productive end-of-life discussions. Advance care planning documents ranging from living wills to the "Five Wishes" program, which helps clarify people's values about how they'd like to spend their final days, can be a good starting point.

A simple introduction like "I need to think about the future. Will you help me?" is a good icebreaker. And the first conversation eases the path to future chats, because changes in physical health, family relations and mental sharpness may necessitate revisions in end-of-life plans.

By discussing these issues during calm times, such as after a holiday get-together or birthday dinner, we can feel prepared and empowered as we and our families approach the inevitable.

Deborah Carr, Boston University, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Salt-water gargle

Fights covid
In an interesting study, researchers have confirmed that the common remedy of gargling with salt water may help improve respiratory symptoms and fight Covid, helping lower hospitalisation rates.

Any dose
The study being presented at this year's American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) Annual Scientific Meeting held in California determined that both a low and high-dose saline regimen appeared to be associated with lower hospitalisation rates compared to controls in SARS-CoV-2 infections.

The study
The team at the University of Texas between 2020 and 2022 randomly selected 58 individuals aged 18-65 years with positive PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 infection to undergo low or high-dose saline regimens for 14 days. They were compared with a reference group of 9,398 people, who also had Covid but hadn't been instructed to gargle or rinse nasal passages.

Findings
The hospitalisation rates in the low- (18.5 per cent) and high- (21.4 per cent) saline regimens were significantly lower than in the reference population (58.8 per cent). There was no difference in hospitalisation rates in the low and high-saline regimens.

Saline regime
"Our goal was to examine saline nasal irrigation and gargling for possible association to improved respiratory symptoms associated with coronavirus infection," says Jimmy Espinoza, from the varsity. "We found that both saline regimens appear to be associated with lower hospitalisation rates compared to controls in SARS-CoV-2 infections. We hope more studies can be done to further investigate the association," he added.

—IANS

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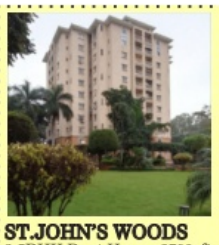

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I, Hitesh Chajjed Residing at Flat No.402, 3rd Floor, 28/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560029 have changed my minor son's name from BHUVE CCHAJJED to BHUVEE CHAJJED vide affidavit dated: 10.11.2023 Sworn before notary: K.S.Nataraja, Bangalore

I, SANDHYA KUMARI, W/o SRINATH T S, resident at #507, 3rd Cross,8th Block, Near Koramangala Police Station Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560095, have changed my name as S SANDHYA SRINATH, vide affidavit dated 10.11.2023 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, Riyaz S/o Javid Bashir Nathani R/o No.714/8, 5th main, Gokula 1st stage, 2nd phase, Bengaluru 560022 have changed my name to Riyaz Javid Nathani affidavit Dt.08/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, ABDUL NASEER AHMED R/a No.1541-1, New Salt Mandi road, Muslim Colony, Water Tank, Shampur road, Banga lore-560045 have changed my name to NASEER AHMED, affidavit dt: 08.11.2023 Notary V. Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I, Avinash S/o Siddayya Swamy R/o No.44, 2nd cross, 3rd main, Beml 5th stage, RR nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Avinash Siddayya Kundankeri affidavit Dt.08/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rekha Srinatha W/o A N Srinatha R/o #690 32nd Main 11th B Cross Jeewan Sathi Colony JP Nagar 1st Phase B'luru-560078 have Changed my name to Rekha Polepalli Nagaraja Setty for all purposes.

I, Sandeep Devappa Shetty R/o B -203 Ozone Evergreens Apt , Haralur Road , off Sarjapur Road, Kasavanahalli, B'lore-560102 have changed my name to Sandeep Shetty for all purposes.

I, Shashidunnisa W/o Altaf Ahmed R/o #6, 2nd Floor , 3rd Cross , Someshwara nagar Jayanagar , 1st Block B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Shahida Unnisa.

I Asha Mohammed Ali R/O D1105, Century Indus Apartment, 833 K.G. Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Asha Ahamed.

I Arghya Das, S/o Ranjit Das, R/o Electronic City, Bangalore have changed my name from Arghya Kusum Das to Arghya Das for all purposes.

I Saniya-e-zehra W/O, Shaozab Mehdi Rizvi R/o No. 17, 7th A Cross, Manjunath Nagar, Bangalore - 560016 have changed my name to Saniya Zehra A.

I, Chirakandhatil Joseph Ronald Robin S/o Joseph Robin R/o #103 Grape Garden Kullappa Circle kammanahalli B'lore-560084 have changed my name to Ronald Robin.

I, Sreekumarnaath Muthusamy R/o No. 255, 2nd Street, Mullai Nagar Vazhppady, Vazhapadi, Valapady Salem, Tamil Nadu-636115. have changed my minor son's name from Sreesravan to S. Sreesravan.

I, NAWAZ PASHA R/a No. 114, Old Post office road, Sulibele, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562129 have changed my name to NAWAZ AHMED, affidavit dated 08.11. 2023 Notary V. Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I, Shreedevi Nagavi w/o Avinash S K R/o No.44, 2nd cross, 3rd main, Beml 5th stage, RR nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Shreedevi Shivappa Nagavi affidavit Dt.08/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Geeta Manjunath Bhat W/o Manjunath Bhat, R/o No 8085,8th Floor, Tower 8, Prestige Royal Gardens, avalahalli, Doddaballapur Road,yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Geeta Ramachandra Gaonkar .

I, VEER BAHDRA MAURYA S/o Ram Sagar Mourya, Residing at No.72/52, Kaveri Layout, Near Thomas School, Vajarahalli, Nelamangala Town, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore rural district-562123 have changed my name to VEERABHADRA MAURYA, vide affidavit dated: 09.11.2023 before notary Gangaraja, B.lore

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K'taka goes for big EV push

Draft EV policy eyes Rs 50,000 cr investment over next 5 years

The Karnataka government on Friday unveiled a revised draft Electric Vehicle policy (2023-28) which aims to attract Rs 50,000 crore investment while creating a job potential for one lakh people over the next five years.

"This proposed policy aims to transform Karnataka into a pioneering force in the field of electric mobility, embracing sustainable practices and equitable growth while fostering innovation and creating a robust ecosystem for EVs throughout the state," Minister for large and medium industries and infrastructure development, M B Patil, said on the occasion.

Addressing an ideation session with representatives of EV industry, he said the government would soon convene a joint meeting of the ministers of finance, energy, transport, and urban development to iron out common issues before launching the final E-mobility policy.

Responding to recommendations made by some of the EV industry players, Patil said that the government would develop model EV cities to promote EV adoption. These model cities would be developed in Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad and Mysuru among others.

The government is in discussion with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to set up electric vehicle charging stations on either side of the Bengaluru-Pune national highway at 10 major toll booths, he said.

Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka, Gunjan Krishna presented the draft policy highlights and said the government has identified Gauribidanur (Chikkaballapur) and Chikkamalligewada (Dharwad) as potential locations to create large EV clusters at the "right price point". The land in both locations has been acquired and is readily available for investors, she stated.

Government plans to develop model EV cities in the state

According to a statement from the Minister's office, the current EV policy of Karnataka is expiring soon. The state was the first in India to launch the EV policy in 2017 and further strengthened the incentives in 2021 to ensure "maximum benefit" to investors.

"The proposed revised draft policy has increased the capital subsidy for testing centres to 30 per cent for on-boarding best-in-class private operators for setting up EV Testing cum Certification facilities. The existing policy provides 15 per cent capital subsidy cap and one per cent Production Linked Incentives for five years," it said.

Further, the proposed draft policy has increased the coverage to provide incentives to include cell components like anode, cathode, separators, strong hybrid vehicles, battery recycling facilities and testing infrastructure, it added.

These clusters would have six major components like ready to occupy land parcels, ready built factory/sheds, plug and play incubation facility, testing labs, proving grounds and homologation facility. In addition, the Government of Karnataka has offered capital subsidies for micro and small enterprises to be in the range of 25 per cent -30 per cent and 20 per cent - 25 per cent, respectively. For medium-sized enterprises, incentives on the value of fixed assets (VFA) range from 20 per cent - 25 per cent, the statement said. The draft proposes a rental subsidy to include reimbursement of 30 per cent of rent or maximum Rs five per square feet per month, for three years on rental properties above 10,000 square feet.

Meanwhile, the existing stamp duty exemption remains as per the ongoing policy. The proposed revised draft policy says it would rapidly identify land parcels aligned with power infrastructure for charging stations, providing favorable power tariffs. **-PTI**

BSY's son Vijayendra is state BJP chief

Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday appointed Vijayendra Yediyurappa, son of former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, as president of its Karnataka unit.

"BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda has appointed Vijayendra Yediyurappa, MLA as State President of Karnataka, BJP. This appointment comes into immediate effect," said a statement issued by BJP national general secretary Arun Sing.

The appointment of Vijayendra Yediyurappa as the state BJP chief comes when the 2024 general elections are on the anvil.

Vijayendra Yediyurappa replaced Nalin Kumar Kateel.

BS Vijayendra, son of BS Yediyurappa, in new role

Vijayendra Yediyurappa belongs to the Lingayat community considered to be the mainstay of the BJP in the state.

The appointment of BJP Karnataka president had been pending since the party's loss in the Assembly election in the state in May this year. **-ANI**

Shocker at Hassan temple: 17 injured

Electric shock to devotees while in queue at Hasanamba temple, causes crowd crush, injuring devotees

Seventeen people were hospitalised on Friday after allegedly being hit by an electric shock while standing in queue for darshan at Hasanamba temple in this district, police said.

Several people were standing in between the barricades used to manage the crowd and suddenly a few of them felt an electric shock, which they alleged came through the iron barricades, following which they raised an alarm, police said.

This resulted in a commotion, prompting people to run for safety.

"Seventeen people were moved out of the barricades and the rest of them are all fine. All the 17 people, including women, were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital.

"While four among them sustained injuries, the rest of them were hospitalised as they complained that they suffered an electric shock while standing in between the barricades," Hassan Superintendent of Police, Mohammed Sujeetha told PTI.

The officer clarified that there was no stampede and it was just a commotion.

Police said it was not clear if people indeed suffered an electric shock.

"Officials from CESC (Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited) are analysing the ground situation. A few women suffered minor injuries in the commotion and were hospitalised. They are all safe. Nothing to worry," she said.

Among the 17 admitted, five of them have already been discharged and the rest of them are doing fine, she added.

A few minutes after the incident, the situation returned to normal and devotees were allowed darshan.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and several ministers and political leaders had visited the temple in recent days. **-PTI**

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IN TELUGU AT : MOVIE TIME {Bellary} | TRISHUL {Davangere} | BHUMIKA {Bangalore} | GALAXY PARADISE {Hongasandra} | ADARSHA {Chintamani} | NATRAJ {Bellary} | SARASWATI {Hospet} | SHANKAR {Madhugiri}. IN TAMIL AT : TRISHUL {Davangere}.

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FARNAZ

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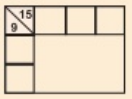
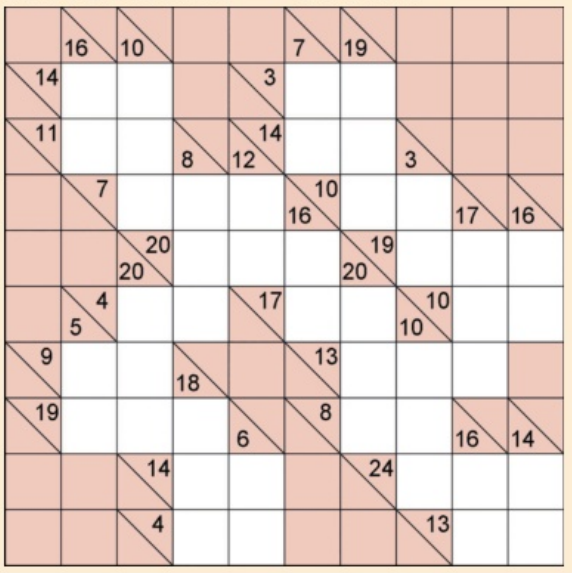
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

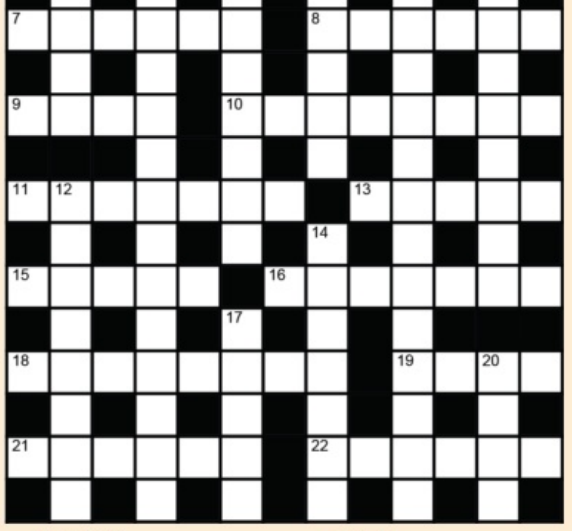


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Famous Swiss city (6)
8 Singular (6)
9 Lima is its capital city (4)
10 Giving as a grant (8)
11 Hospital on Airport road (7)
13 Have a good time ? (5)
15 Hundred lakhs in our country? (5)
16 Kidnaps (7)
18 Alcoholic drink–"owe print" anagram? (4,4)
19 Stitches (4)
21 Meaning or plan (6)
22 ____ up : steps on the gas pedal? (6)

DOWN

1 Far as a prefix (4)
2 Quirks and oddities (13)
3 Of the heart (7)
4 Taking to court (5)
5 Famous, celebrated or illustrious (13)
6 Happens to be, occurs? (5,3)
12 Flying (8)
14 The side of the coin bearing the main design (7)
17 Implies or insinuates (5)
20 Ties the knot (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS P

EIJEOI OJNI LC CIOG-YIA-JVTZQZJT HPLQ QPIU PLQI LC LT LAADCLQZJT.

Linemaro

Even if there were no gravity on Earth, I'd still fall for you!

Mindchow

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.

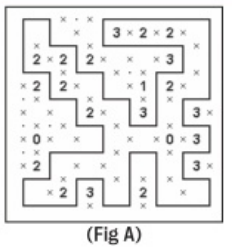
Joke of the day

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

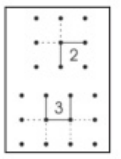
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

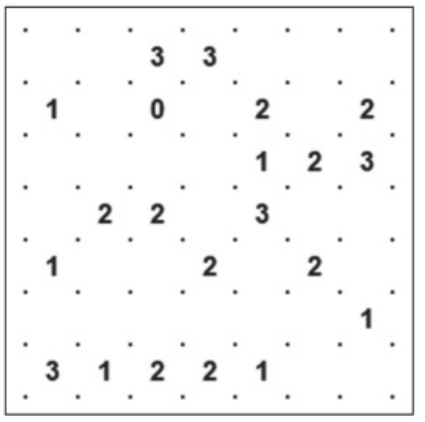


(Fig B) Not Allowed

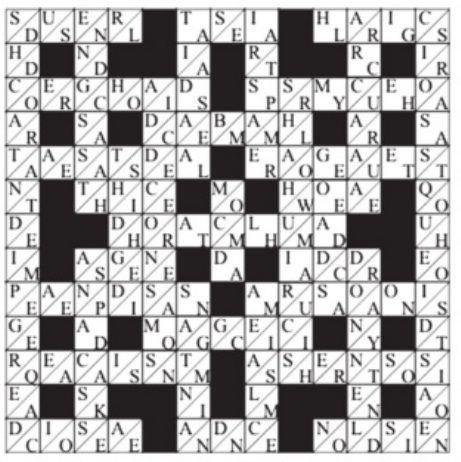
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

1 Berks; 6 Raree;
7 Me lid; 8 Cig in;
9 TY fat

DOWN

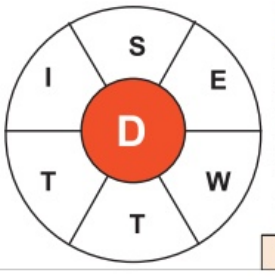
1 I flak; 2 Ceria;
3 Miter; 4 Rent B;
5 Edgy S

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

17, 4, 29, 13, 41, 22, 53, 31, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8						3	
			6		5			
2	5		4		1		7	6
7		1	3		8	2		5
4		6	5		2	8		9
5	6		1		9		2	8
			7		3			
	4						9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

2 3 5 8

Medium = 1

3 4 5 7

Hard = 3

1 3 3 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

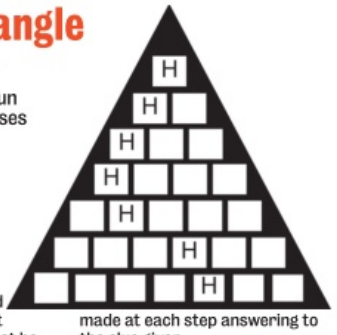
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Plant is moved. 4. Lamp is different. 5. Pencil is moved. 6. Man has less hair.

Riddler

5 + 5 + 5 = 550 Add ONE STRAIGHT LINE to the above to make the sum correct.

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 Greeting
3 Possessive pronoun
4 Broadway successes
5 Top garment
6 Just claims
7 Scares



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

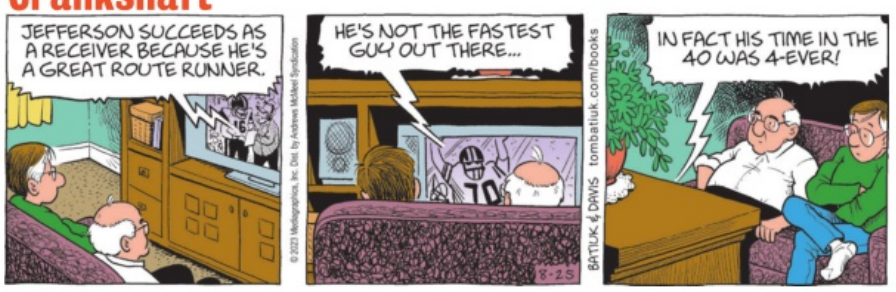
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEY, HEART! TO PROVE THAT WE'RE GOING TO THE DANCE AS FRIENDS, I ASKED MY DAD TO GET THE WHOLE GANG A LIMO SO WE CAN ALL CARPOOL.
BRENT, YOU'RE A GENIUS.
IT'S ACTUALLY BRETT.
WHAT?!
HAHA, I'M KIDDING!
OH, SO YOU'RE A JOKESTER NOW, HUH?
WATCH OUT, EVERYONE! BRENT'S TELLING JOKES!

Crankshaft


JEFFERSON SUCCEEDS AS A RECEIVER BECAUSE HE'S A GREAT ROUTE RUNNER.
HE'S NOT THE FASTEST GUY OUT THERE...
IN FACT HIS TIME IN THE 40 WAS 4-EVER!
tombatiuk.com/books
8-25

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. It's a good day for you with good vitality. You may enjoy your work and romantic moments with your spouse, improving domestic harmony. Planning for a new project is likely, and your perfection may help design the flow chart. Job seekers will find a suitable job, but love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may not feel well; old health issues may arise, making you upset. Taking wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry is possible. It is advised to think twice before making any decision and not keep money loose, as you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, making you happy. There may be good gains in your past investments, and you may be able to make quick decisions at work, leading to gains in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work, successfully implementing your plans with the help of a strong network. Your wisdom may bring profits in past investments. Romantic moments with your spouse will increase harmony in your domestic life, and love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, making you happy. Last week's challenges are over, and with the blessing, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may initiate postponed work, and there are gains in your business, boosting your finances.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull and have some health issues. Postponing investments in the business and avoiding starting a new venture is advised, as you may face losses in the business, turning gains into losses.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic, speeding up your project. Quick decisions may increase business, and starting a new innovation in partnership is likely. However, investments in fixed assets with a business partner are not advised.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy, and old health issues may be cured. Stuck amounts may likely be recovered, and applying for a loan for luxury items is favoured

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, giving you confidence. You may make important decisions confidently, plan for higher studies, and meet intellectual people to exchange views.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull, making it difficult to complete tasks and affecting your confidence. Past investments may yield negative returns, and avoiding arguments on worthless topics is advised to save precious time. Control spending on worthless stuff.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel energetic, performing efficiently at work. Hard work may boost your confidence, and property-related disputes with siblings may be resolved. Meeting influential people may boost your network, and short trips are expected.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, making you happy. You are likely to get a big order with your communication skills. Being polite may increase your respect, and you may take difficult business decisions with the help of your colleagues.

KIDZONE

R Varshini Babu, 5 Years, Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya

Shashank Y, 14 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6^4! ÷ (-9+9+4)! =
6^4! ÷ 4! = 6

BULL'S EYE
diet, edit, side, sited, tide, ted, TWISTED, wide, widest, wised

FAST FIVE

K	E	R	B	S
A	R	E	R	E
L	I	M	E	D
I	C	I	N	G
F	A	T	T	Y

STRIKE OUT

D	O	S	E		N	U	E		O	D	I	N		
E	K		I		L		E		O					
R	A	C	I	S	T		S	H	E	N	S	I		
E	A		M	A	G	I	C		N		T			
P	A	N	D	A	S		A	R	S	O	N	S		
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R		A		C	A	B	A	L		R		S		
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H		N		I		T		C		R				
S	U	S	E		N	U	E		O	D	I	N		

QUICK

	E		S		S		E		D		S			
I	N	T	E	N	T		S	P	E	E	D	S		
	R		I		N		R		H		E			
P	O	R	T	W	I	N	E		S	E	W	S		
	B		I		H		V		I					
C	R	O	R	E		A	B	D	U	C	T	S		
M	A	N	I	P	A	L		E	N	J	O	Y		
	I		A		C		O		G		U			
P	E	R	U		D	O	N	A	T	I	N	G		
	L		C		R		I		S		R			
G	E	N	E	V	A		U	N	I	O	U	E		
	T		P		C		S		D		T			

MENSA PUZZLE
65: there are two alternate sequences: +12 and +9

RIDDLER
5 4 5 + 5 =
550 Add a straight line to the first "+" to make it a "4".

QUOTE UNCODE
People love as self-recognition what they hate as an accusation.

SUDOKU

3	4	2	8	5	6	9	7	1
9	1	8	7	2	3	6	5	4
5	6	7	1	4	9	3	2	8
4	3	6	5	7	2	8	1	9
8	2	5	9	1	4	7	6	3
7	9	1	3	6	8	2	4	5
6	8	4	2	9	7	5	3	1
2	5	3	4	8	1	9	7	6
1	7	9	6	3	5	4	8	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Hi!, His, Hits, Shirt, Rights, Frights.

LOOP
Easy
5 x 2 + 8 – 3 = 15
Medium
7 – 4 – 5 + 3 = 1
Hard
3 + 3 x 1 – 3 = 3

GO FIGURE

KAKURO

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 # Eco Cinema
Hollywood star Jason Momoa's highly acclaimed film 'Deep Rising' will be making its official Indian premiere at the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival 2023 (ALT EFF), an environmental film festival

Fierce fighter

Kajal Aggarwal takes on blazing new avatar of hardened cop in her upcoming movie

Actress Kajal Aggarwal's upcoming film 'Satyabhama' has come forth with an explosive teaser, as the actress takes the stage as a hardened cop and a blazing new figure of woman power.

A powerful, determined woman, the actress' titular character of ACP Satyabhama is shown to be suspended as the corpse of the person she had to protect was discovered inside her car. Haunted by this guilt, she is legally suspended from the case, but it is far from over.

More determined than ever, Kajal is now targeting the culprits on her own and is shown to be a furious fighter who can take on any kind of attacker. Chasing the murderer, the teaser also cuts to scenes of forest encounters with killers, all the while she is chasing a dead lead.

But being relentless, when asked by the press whether her suspension from the case means that the case is over, she angrily responds: "Never!"

Featuring thrills, suspense, and action, 'Satyabhama' is centred around both the prospect of woman power as well as a gripping and tight narrative.

The movie is a crime-thriller which has a lot of typical masala elements, featuring a very polished look as opposed to being more grounded.

The official synopsis of the movie reads: "ACP Satyabhama confronts her haunted past, diving into a high-stakes investigation to find a missing man. As she unravels dark secrets in various towns cloaked in shadows, redemption hangs in the balance. Will she triumph over the past or be consumed by its shadows?"

The movie is directed and written by Suman Chikkala.

The music is composed by SriCharan Pakala with a screenplay by Sashi Kiran Tikka. 'Satyabhama' will hit theatres in the summer of 2024.

— IANS

Rare role

Actress Mrunal Thakur will be seen in the film 'Pippa', based on the critically acclaimed novel 'The Burning Chaffees'. She is overjoyed about being a part of a film where a female character is given a well-defined arc, challenging the traditional gender norms seen in war dramas.

Mrunal plays Radha, a medical student and cryptographer who becomes an essential part of the war alongside her siblings.

In discussing her role, Mrunal shared, "Radha is a character close to my heart. She represents the resilience and strength of women, not just emotionally but also intellectually. It was refreshing to see a female character actively involved in the war effort, making significant contributions through her expertise in cryptography."

She said, "Pippa showcases a different perspective, and I am honoured to bring Radha's story to life".

'Pippa', directed by Raja Menon, also stars Ishan Khatter..

—IANS

Rural superstitions

NA KOLIKKE RANGA
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Mahesh Goravale Mandy
- **ACTORS** Master Anand, Rajeshwari S, Bhavya, Honnavalli Krishna, Vaijanath Biradar, Shobhraj
- **Duration** 142 minutes
- **Certification** U

Mahesh Goravale Mandy marks his directorial debut in the Sandalwood industry with 'Na Kolikke Ranga', and producer S T Somasekhar deserves commendation for overcoming challenges and finally securing a theatrical release, considering the movie's production spanned over four years. The film merits praise for its choice of a script that sheds light on superstitions prevalent in rural areas, exposing the exploitation of unsuspecting villagers by greedy and wicked priests who manipulate them into sacrificing animals.

The narrative kicks off with a group of young individuals attempting to capture Sukkuraja, a rooster owned by Ranga (Master Anand). Sanakka (Bhavya), Ranga's mother, encourages him to strive for a better standing in society. However, Ranga inadvertently becomes entangled in a conflict involving Guddappa (Rockline Sudhakar), the village priest, and his daughter (Rajeshwari). Following Guddappa's advice, Ranga's mother solemnly pledges to sacrifice Sukkuraja to appease Goddess Maramma after an incident leaves Ranga unconscious while working on a farm.

As the story unfolds, a new teacher (Shakeela) arrives at the village school, endeavouring to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of superstition. The film explores the fate of Ranga and his rooster.

The film's drawback lies in its slow-paced narration. On the performance front, Master Anand delivers a stellar act, showcasing impressive dialogue delivery and gestures. However, Rajeshwari S, in the role of the heroine, needs to refine her acting abilities. Bhavya, the veteran actress portraying Ranga's concerned and affectionate mother, delivers a convincing performance. Shakeela, stepping into a different role, veers away from her typical persona seen in adult films, showcasing her versatility. Honnavalli Krishna and Vijanath Biradar provide solid support with their portrayals of a womaniser and an incorrigible drunkard. The film's songs and cinematography contribute positively to the overall viewing experience.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Action entertainer

GARADI
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Yogaraj Bhat
- **ACTORS** B C Patil, Darshan (special appearance), Yashas Soorya, Sonali Monteiro, Sujay Belur
- **Duration** 146 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The film Garadi delves into the world of traditional gymnasiums and wrestlers in North Karnataka. Renowned director Yogaraj Bhat, known for his work in the romantic blockbuster Mungaru Male, takes on the challenge of directing an action-packed movie featuring special appearances by Challenging Star Darshan and the dynamic Nishvika Naidu, renowned for her captivating dance skills. The movie aims to cater to mass and family audiences, blending elements of action and entertainment.

The movie opens with a voiceover of Shivappa Rane (Ravishankar), who wants to avenge his brother Pratap Simha Rane's murder by Bande Seena, a wrestler. Shivappa Rane, with the help of local police, kills Bande Seena and tells Koraput Rangappa (B C Patil), who maintains a traditional gymnasium, that Bande Seena is killed in a police encounter. Rangappa takes care of Bande Seena's two sons – Shankara and Surya. He vows to train Shankara in wrestling to win the cup in the wrestling competition. However, unavoidable circumstances make Shankara kill two people. Rangappa informs the police and requests them to take Shankara into custody.

Meanwhile, Surya (Yashas Soorya) is assigned to massage the wrestlers at the gymnasium as per Rangappa's directive. He sees Kabbali (Sonali Monteiro), a YouTuber, and falls in love with her. Pramod Simha Rane (Sujay Belur), the son of Shivappa Rane, creates problems for Surya and Kabbali. What happens to the lovers and what is Darshan's role in this movie is what Garadi is all about.

Yashas Soorya shines in his role, showcasing his awaited acting prowess. Sonali Monteiro, portraying a reel addict, delivers a commendable performance. B C Patil, the actor-politician, convincingly portrays the role of a wrestling trainer. Pruthvi Shamanur, as an angry adolescent, impresses with his acting. Nishvika Naidu adds fire to the screen with her exceptional dancing skills, while Darshan injects vigour into the climax with punchy dialogues.

—Y Maheswara Reddy